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Letter dated 8 November 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 27 October 2004, which I received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

04-59832 (E) 101104

Annex

Letter dated 27 October 2004 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on SFOR operations for September 2004. I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jaap de **Hoop Scheffer**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. This report covers the period from 1 to 30 September 2004.

2. As at 30 September 2004, the total strength of the Stabilization Force (SFOR) was 8,519, including 457 troops from non-NATO countries. In addition, there were six SFOR personnel posted in Croatia.

3. On 5 October, SFOR authority was transferred from Major General Virgil Packett II (United States of America) to Brigadier General Steven Schook (United States of America) in Sarajevo. On 1 October, NATO headquarters Sarajevo, the Alliance's residual presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, achieved initial operating capability.

4. There was no change in the status of partner/non-NATO country contributions.

Security

5. During the reporting period, Bosnia and Herzegovina remained stable, with no serious security incidents to report. On 30 September, three hand grenades were thrown at Café Don in Cazin and one grenade was thrown at the railway station in Banja Luka. There were no injuries caused by the blasts; only minor structural damage was reported.

6. SFOR is currently investigating an accidental mine explosion which occurred on 16 September. A non-governmental organization demining team working on a known minefield near Brcko apparently detonated an anti-personnel landmine. One person was killed and another seriously wounded.

7. There were no significant acts of violence directed against SFOR personnel during the reporting period.

8. SFOR remained engaged with weapons collection, destruction and framework operations.

9. The results of weapons turned in or collected during the reporting period and within the framework of Operation Harvest are as follows: small arms (rifles, pistols and revolvers): 452; ammunition less than 20 mm: 170,874 rounds; ammunition between 20 mm and 76 mm: 61 rounds; ammunition more than 76 mm: 93 rounds; hand grenades: 1,678; mines: 132; explosives: 61,986 kg; other items (mortars and mortar rounds, rifle grenades, handmade ordnance, rockets etc.): 5,603.

10. In order to support the reduction of unserviceable and obsolete Entity Armed Forces ammunition and reduce ammunition quantities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, SFOR has continued to conduct Operation Armadillo II. The total amount of Republika Srpska Army ammunition destroyed remains at 2,674 tons.

11. On 8 September, SFOR released Veljko Borovina to the Republika Srpska Ministry of the Interior Special Police. His arrest, mentioned in the august report, was made on suspicion of having links with alleged war criminals. Milovan Bjelica, also detained by SFOR last month for the same reason, was released to the Republika Srpska Ministry of the Interior Special Police on 27 September.

Compliance by the parties

12. During the reporting period, the Entity Armed Forces have carried out normal training activities, in compliance with the military provisions of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

13. A total of 362 training and operation activities (213 Republika Srpska Army and 149 Federation Army) and 342 movements (154 Republika Srpska Army and 188 Federation Army) were conducted during the reporting period.

14. There were a total of 38 inspections of weapons and ammunition storage sites (16 Republika Srpska Army and 22 Federation Army) during September 2004.

October municipal elections

15. The 2004 municipal elections, the first post-war elections to be fully funded and organized by the Bosnian authorities, were held on 2 October in a calm and stable environment. The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights qualified the campaign as being conducted in a democratic atmosphere and in accordance with the electoral law, with no significant incidents reported. A more detailed account of the elections will appear in the October report.

Conclusion

16. September was a quiet month continuing the trend set during previous months. The SFOR deterrent presence posture still ensures a safe and secure environment which continues to bode well for the transfer of operations to the European Union later this year. Preparations for the European Union's operation Althea, as well as the full standing-up of NATO headquarters Sarajevo, are ongoing.